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year as a minimum. The early cooperation of organizations of the working classes and of those working for the prevention of tuberculosis and alcoholism will be sought.

THE Weather Bureau has published for many years the *Monthly Weather Review*, treating of the general weather conditions throughout the United States as a whole, with occasional summaries of climatic data from other and frequently little known regions of the earth. Also there have appeared in its pages many scientific and popular contributions from the best students of meteorology and kindred subjects, thus making it one of the leading meteorological and climatological journals of the world. A considerable number of the several monthly and annual issues of this publication have accumulated in the files of the Weather Bureau and it is thought they would be a valuable addition to any library. If any library desires copies of these publications, either for the completion of broken files or as new matter of public interest, copies of such issues as are available will be furnished free of charge upon request.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has received an anonymous gift of \$10,000 annually for four years for surgical research, and a gift of \$15,000 for five years for the establishment of a bureau to study legislative drafting.

FURMAN UNIVERSITY, the Baptist College of South Carolina, has now in course of construction a \$50,000 science building which will accommodate the departments of chemistry, biology and physics with lecture rooms and laboratories. Half the cost of this building was supplied by local contributors and the other half was the gift of Mr. Rockefeller. It is expected that the building will be completed and ready for occupancy at the beginning of the next session, in September.

MISS A. H. CRUICKSHANK, daughter of a former professor of mathematics in Aberdeen University, who during her lifetime made generous gifts to the university, has bequeathed £22,000 for the endowment of a chair of as-

tronomy, the establishment of a science library and the provision of law prizes in the university, and the residue of her estate for kindred objects.

THE Drapers' Company, London, has granted £6,000 to the Battersea Polytechnic for the erection and equipment of a department of hygiene and physiology.

DR. HENRY PIKE, of the University of Chicago, has been appointed assistant professor of physiology and Dr. Warfield T. Longcope, of the University of Pennsylvania, assistant professor of medicine in Columbia University.

At Cornell University Mr. F. K. Richtmyer has been promoted to be assistant professor of physics; Mr. C. W. Bennett, to be instructor in chemistry, and C. K. Carpenter to be instructor in experimental engineering.

THE following promotions have been made in the department of botany of the University of Chicago: Charles J. Chamberlain, advanced from assistant professor to associate professor; Henry C. Cowles, advanced from assistant professor to associate professor; William J. G. Land, advanced from instructor to assistant professor; William Crocker, advanced from instructor to assistant professor.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION OF THE NON-ALCOHOLIC CONSTITUENTS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In a recent number of SCIENCE<sup>1</sup> D. D. Whitney, in an article entitled "The Poisonous Effects of Alcoholic Beverages not Proportional to their Alcoholic Contents," cites the following sentences from my report on the pharmacological action of ethyl alcohol:<sup>2</sup>

The more concentrated alcoholic liquors or spirits are, from a practical point of view, the

<sup>1</sup> April 14, 1911, p. 587.

<sup>2</sup> "A Critical Review of the Pharmacological Action of Ethyl Alcohol, with a Statement of the Relative Toxicity of the Constituents of Alcoholic Beverages," by John J. Abel, pp. 1-169 in Vol. II., "Physiological Aspects of the Liquor Problem," Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1903.